

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2019

Mr. John Sanders
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Acting Commissioner:

We respectfully write to request that you deploy additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and review staffing models to ensure Atlanta has enough officers available to carry out CBP's important mission.

Hartsfield-Jackson is the world's busiest airport, serving more than 107 million passengers last year and generating more than \$34 billion in annual economic impact. The airport's continued success, dependent on the smooth operation of international air service, is vital to the competitiveness and prosperity of Metro Atlanta and the State of Georgia.

While international traffic in Atlanta has climbed 14 percent since 2014, unfortunately, the number of CBP officers has declined. Congress funded 600 additional CBP officer positions this year, and as you allocate these positions, we encourage you to appoint a sufficient number of officers to Hartsfield-Jackson.

We appreciate that CBP has worked with the airport and its partners to invest in technology and to eliminate redundancies. Automated kiosks, increased use of Global Entry, and biometric tools help ease the customs process. Despite these innovations, customer satisfaction with customs and immigration processing has declined, and wait times have steadily increased. This underscores the critical need for additional officers.

We remain concerned that CBP's existing workforce staffing model does not account for current passenger and cargo traffic at Hartsfield-Jackson, much less expected future growth. We encourage you to review the model and ensure that Atlanta has enough officers to ensure a smooth customs process and safely facilitate international tourism and trade. In addition, we hope that CBP ensure a timely and expeditious replacement of Atlanta-based officers in any future reallocation of staff or resources.

As always, we thank you for your consideration of our concerns about this important issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress



SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



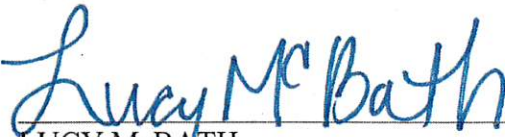
ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



DOUG COLLINS
Member of Congress




LUCY McBATH
Member of Congress



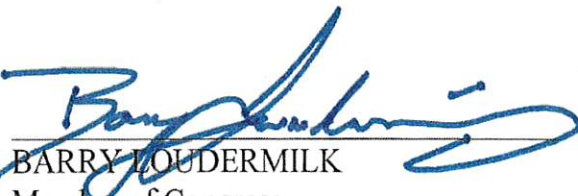
RICK W. ALLEN
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EARL L. 'BUDDY' CARTER
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BARRY LOUDERMILK
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A. DREW FERGUSON, IV DMD
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